(1) Passports are, at present, ordinarily being issued after prior identity and security verifications from the State Police Authorities concerned who have been requested to exercise care and caution in furnishing of the reports.

(2) As regards tampering with the photos and entries in the passports, Passport Offices have been instructed to be careful and glue photo properly and put signature and round seals across the photo before sticker is affixed in the passport.

(3) The security features in passport booklet are being further improved and with the proposed introduction of machine readable passports by 1990, forgery in the passport booklet is likely to be fully eliminated.

(4) With the phased computerisation of various passport offices in India and with a creation of national hook-up in the near future, issue of passport will become further secure.

Undertrials in jails

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of undertrials lodged in various jails in the country at the end of 1986;

(b) which of the State jails have the highest number of undertrials and how many of them are confined to jails for periods more than the sentence had they been convicted by the Court;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments concerned have completely ignored the Central directive to review the cases of undertrials and have also not followed the directive of the Supreme Court to release all those who have served more than the sentence period they would have otherwise awarded by the courts if convicted; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) As per information available the total number of undertrials as on 30-6-86 was 1,01,609.

(b) These statistics are not collected by the Centre.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Governments have been requested to adhere to the instructions and the directives of the Supreme Court.

Murder of foreign diplomats

2197.SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign diplomats murdered in India during 1985-86; and

(b) how many of these murder cases have been solved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI):

(a) According to the available information, no murder of any foreign diplomat took place during the year 1985-86 (Ist April, 1985 to 31st March, 1986).

(b) Does not arise.

Repatriation of tribal refugees to Bangladesh

2198. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tribal refugees from Chittagong Hills of

Bangladesh who have come to Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Amnesty International has urged the Government of India to refrain from repatriating these tribal refugees against their will; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) There were 47,003 refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh in camps in Tripura on 8-3-1987.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh had agreed that repatriation of the refugees from Tripura to the Chittagong Hills Tracts would start from the 15th January, 1987. On that date, however, the refugees refused to return to Bangladesh, saying that they were not convinced that they would be safe on return to their homes. As a result, repatriation could not begin.

Government has requested the Government of Bangladesh to take necessary measures to restore conditions of safety and normalcy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts so that the refugees gain the confidence to return to their homes voluntarily.

Sri Lankan President's Statement on Tamil Terrorists

2199. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of the Sri Lankan President accusing India of not assisting in preventing Tamil terrorists coming to Sri Lanka secretly in boats after receiving military training in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government categorically denies the accusation.

Indian Medical Graduates in Canada

2200. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than a hundred medical graduates from India who have successfully passed the Canadian evaluation tests cannot practice in Canada;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of these medical graduates have been doing odd jobs as delivery boys, security guards an attendants at guest houses;

(c) if so, what measures are being taken by the Central Government to help these madical graduates and encourage them to return to India and provide them jobs; and

(d) whether Government have prepared any scheme to discharge Indian medical graduates and engineers from migrating to foreign countries and if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware that some medical graduates from India and other countries who have successfully passed the Canadian evaluation test find it difficult to get internship posts, which is one of the pre-requisites for practising in Canada.

(b) According to available information, some of these medical graduates are doing jobs unrelated to their qualifications.